

A new species of *Thyridanthrax* from Morocco (Diptera: Bombyliidae)

Jozef Dils

Abstract. A new Bombyliid species is described from Morocco: *Thyridanthrax maroccanus* n. sp., based on 17 males and 12 females collected in the Ouarzazate region (S. E. Morocco) in March–April in 2007 and 2009. The new species seems to be related to *Thyridanthrax loustai* Andreu, 1961, Murcia (S. Spain).

Samenvatting. Een nieuwe soort *Thyridanthrax* uit Marokko (Diptera: Bombyliidae)

Uit Marokko wordt een nieuwe Bombyliidae-soort beschreven: *Thyridanthrax maroccanus* n. sp., gebaseerd op 17 mannetjes en 12 wijfjes, verzameld in de omgeving van Ouarzazate (Zuid-Oost-Marokko) in maart–april van 2007 en 2009. Deze nieuwe soort lijkt nauw verwant aan *Thyridanthrax loustai* Andreu, 1961, Murcia (Zuid-Spanje).

Résumé. Une espèce nouvelle de *Thyridanthrax* du Maroc (Diptera: Bombyliidae)

Une nouvelle espèce de Bombyliidae est décrite: *Thyridanthrax maroccanus* n. sp., basée sur 17 mâles et 12 femelles, capturés dans la région de Ouarzazate (Sud-Est du Maroc) en mars–avril 2007 et 2009. Cette espèce nouvelle semble avoir des affinités avec *Thyridanthrax loustai* Andreu, 1961, Murcia (Espagne méridionale).

Key words: *Thyridanthrax* – *maroccanus* – *loustai* – new species – Morocco.

Dils J.: Krekelberg 149, B-2940 Hoevenen. jos.dils@skynet.be

Thyridanthrax maroccanus n. sp.

Introduction

In the spring of 2007, East of Skoura, near a dry oued, we found for the first time some nearly completely black *Thyridanthrax* with white scales at the apex of the abdomen, they could not be identified with the normal *Thyridanthrax* keys. Also the examination of the genitalia was not helpful to identify them. They were visiting blue flowers. The papers consulted to classify the new species are: Engel in Lindner (1937), Sanchez Terron & Roldan Bravo 2000; Zaitsev (1998, 2008).

06°49'02,1" 30.03.2009; 5♂, 3♀, Morocco, Ouarzazate, Amerzgane, 1350 m, N 31°01'02,9" W 07°13'45,9", 25.03.2009; 1♂, Morocco, Ouarzazate, Amerzgane, 1350 m, N 31°01'01,6" W 07°13'46,1", 04.04.2009, all deposited in CJD.

Description

Diagnosis: The infuscation of the wings of *Thyridanthrax maroccanus* n. sp. is similar to the infuscation of *T. loustai* Andreu, 1961, the epiphallus however does not match. The epiphallus of *T. perspicillaris* is somewhat similar but this species has white scales on T4 and T5, whereas *T. maroccanus* n. sp. has only black scales and hairs.

Male:

Head: Ground colour sub shining black, a brown to yellowish-brown black haired area with an admixture of white hairs, from the antennae to the bucal rim descending along the inner eye margin always present. All further upright hairs black, those on frons and face as long as the scape, under those black hairs adjacent elongate golden scales. The upper part of the bucal rim densely covered by short black hairs. Antenna; the black haired scape ground colour: brown to light brown, pedicel with short black erect hairs and the conical black flagellum bare. Proboscis not protruding bucal cavity, palpal yellowish-brown with black hairs. The rim of the occipital foramen with uniform, short upright brown hairs. The occiput with scattered yellowish elongated scales, denser near the bisection of the eyes. Eyes separated by twice the width of the ocellar tubercle.

Thorax: Ground colour of thorax sub shining black, mesonotum delicately greenish-grey dusted with two paramedian black vitae. Mesonotum with an anterior collar of erect golden hairs as long as the flagellum. Dorsally the black hairs immediately posterior those golden hairs, gradually getting shorter till approximately the middle of the disk leaving the rest of the disk bare, laterally the black hairs continue above the postalar calli



Fig. 1. *Thyridanthrax maroccanus* n. sp., Morocco, Ouarzazate, Skoura, 1250 m, N 31°04'00,7" W 06°31'30,5", 08.03.2007; 1♂, deposited in collection J. Dils (CJD).

Material

Holotype ♂ (Fig. 1), Morocco, Ouarzazate, Skoura, 1250 m, N 31°04'00,7" W 06°31'30,5", 08.03.2007, deposited in collection J. Dils (CJD).

Paratypes: 7♂, 6♀, Morocco, Ouarzazate, Skoura, 1250 m, N 31°04'00,7" W 06°31'30,5", 08.03.2007; 1♂, 1♀, Morocco, Ouarzazate, Skoura, 1250 m, N 31°04'00,7" W 06°31'30,5", 05.03.2007; 2♂, 2♀, Morocco, Ouarzazate, Ouarzazate, 1200 m, N 30°50'49,7" W

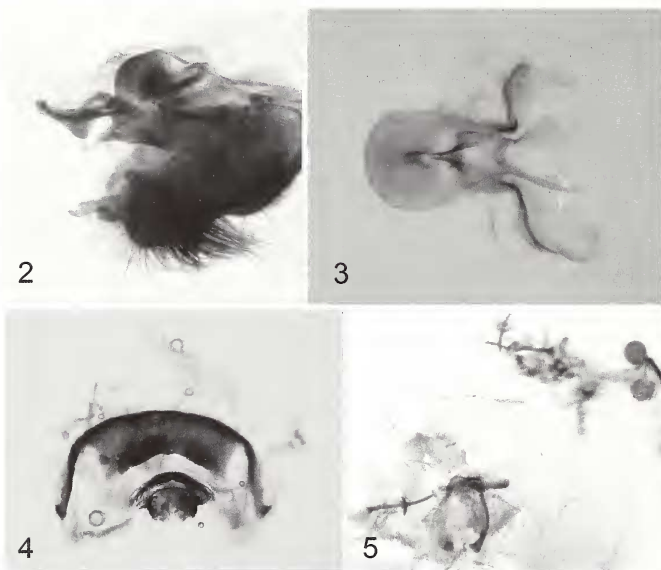
till the back of the mesonotum where they are again as long as the flagellum. The golden collar descending along the pronotum, where the hairs get mixed with black ones, in some specimens the basely hairs are all black. Anepisternum dorsally with golden, ventrally with black hairs, katepisternum, anepimeron, coxae and laterotergite black haired. Meropleurite bare, mediotergite with black hairs. Bristles on postalar calli yellowish and as long as the length of scutellum. Scutellum with a hart shaped brown pattern in the ground colour, dorsally with short black hairs and long (as long as antennae) black and yellow bristles on the posterior edge.

Abdomen: Ground colour of abdomen sub shining black, T1 and T2 laterally brown. All tergites dorsally, sparsely covered with adjacent elongate black scales and erect black hairs. Laterally tergites T1 to T6 densely

covered with black hairs. T6 postero-dorsal with white scales and hairs, also T7 postero-dorsal with white scales and hairs, the white hairs are reaching the lateral edge of the tergite where they are mixed with some black hairs. Sterna also covered with adjacent elongate black scales and erect black hairs as long as the antennae.

Legs: Black with adjacent black scales, coxae with black hairs, f1 dorsally with short spines, ventrally with short hairs, f2 and f3 ventrally with short spines and hairs. T1 without spines, t2 and t3 with black spines. Tarsi on front legs without spines, tarsi on legs 2 and 3 with ventral spines. Claws on leg 1 very small, normal on legs 2 and 3. Pulvelli absent.

Wings: The infuscation of the wings is similar to the infuscation in *Thyridanthrax loustaui* Andreu, 1961, found in southern Spain in the province of Murcia.



Figs. 2–5. Genitalia of *Thyridanthrax maroccanus* sp. n.; 2.— Male genitalia lateral view; 3.— Epiphallus dorsal view; 4. Female 8th and 9th tergite; 5.— Spermatheca and furca.

Female:

The female differs from the male only in a wider separation of the eyes. In the male the width of the frons is twice and in the female three times the width of the ocellar tubercle.

Etymology:

This species is named *maroccanus* because it is until now only found in Morocco.

Literature

- Andréu Rubio J. M. 1959. Bombyliidos marroquines del instituto Español de entomologica. — *EOS, Revista Española de Entomología* 35: 7–19.
- Austen E. E. 1937. *The Bombyliidae of Palestine*. — British Museum (Natural History), London, ix + 188 p.
- Engel E. O. 1938. Bombyliidae. — In: Lindner, E. (ed.), *Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region* 4(3): 1–48. — E. Schweizerbart, Stuttgart.
- Sanchez Terron A. & Roldan Bravo A. 2000. El género *Thyridanthrax* Osten Sacken, 1886 en el área Ibero-Balear, con la descripción de una nueva especie (Diptera: Bombyliidae). — *Boletín de la Asociación española de Entomología* 24: 65–84.
- Zaitsev V. F. 1998. On the fauna of Bombyliidae (Diptera) of Israel. Communication IV. — *Entomological Review* 78: 1066–1079.
- Zaitsev V. F. 2008. Contributions to the Palaearctic fauna of the Dipteran Families Bombyliidae and Myhicomylidae (Diptera), 2. — *Entomological Review* 88: 186–198.